

M: 26/16/19

Barcus House and Cottage

114 and 116 North Street, Rockville

Private

Built: #114 - c. 1924  
#116 - 1930s

These vernacular dwellings were constructed by John Barcus in the black community of Haiti. Barcus owned two lots, building #114 as his own dwelling and #116 later as a rental unit. Local oral history places an older log dwelling at or near this site before "Beall's Subdivision" lots were subdivided and sold.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M: 26/16/19

Magi No. \_\_\_\_\_

DOE yes ☒ noNR eligible: yes ☒ no  
contrib. element in HD ☒

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Barcus House/ Barcus Cottage

and/or common \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number 114 and 116 North Street not for publication \_\_\_\_\_city, town Rockville vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 8thstate Maryland county Montgomery

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name #114- Viola Hebron and Catherine V. Jackson  
#116- Samuel W. and Charlotte H. Copelandstreet & number 114 and 116 North Street telephone no.: 20850  
city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse #114 L/f-1968/450street & number Rockville #116 L/f-6519/188city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local \_\_\_\_\_

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Survey No. H126/16/19

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### 114 North Street

This 2-1/2 story vernacular house demonstrates the survival of vernacular houses and 19th century way of living into the 20th century. Although built in the 1920s, this house is typical of mid-to-late-19th century L-shaped vernacular houses, consisting of a side-gabled three-bay by one-bay rectangular main block with rear kitchen wing. It functioned much as its prototype house did in a semi-rural area without water or sewer until the 1950s. It has been modified for modern utilities and the exterior cladding replaced.

This well-maintained house faces north on North Street on a 50' by 260' lot, one of a row of single family detached houses with similar moderate setbacks and spacing. Neighboring houses range from one-story bungalows and modern ramblers to 2-1/2 story frame turn-of-the-century houses on similar lots. A duplex development is across North street on McLean Court.

The house has a chain link fence around the well-maintained front yard. The grade declines slightly from the street, accessed by a central concrete walkway. The fenced yard is landscaped with symmetrical shrubs on either side of the front entry and azaleas softening the foundation line. There is an extensive vegetable garden and grape arbor in the rear yard. A driveway and parking area from North Street is near the west facade.

It has a composition-shingled roof, wide aluminum siding on its symmetrical front facade, and a front-gabled portico at the central entryway. The foundation is parged with concrete. There is an interior brick chimney with a brick collar on the west end of the ridgepole. Windows are 2/2 with plain surrounds and decorative non-functional shutters.

The three-bay north (front) has two windows on the second story and a window in the east and west bays on the first story. A wood exterior door is in the center bay. A front-gabled portico supported at the corner by two wrought iron trellises shelters the door. There is a concrete deck with one step up from the walkway.

Continued on Attachment 7.1

## 8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/16/19

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates #114-c. 1924 #116-1930s

NA

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These vernacular dwellings were constructed by John Barcus in the black community known as Haiti, on land once owned by members of the Beall-Dawson family.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA: Attachment 8.2  
ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA: Attachment 8.2

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Oral tradition places a long, log dwelling house at the west end of the south side of North Street, owned by descendants of the Beall-Dawson family and occupied by individuals named Ginny Robinson and George Duffin in the early part of the 20th century; the dwelling was razed as more lots were sold and improved in that block. By the mid-1920s, a number of lots on this block had transferred to black families and investors.

Lots 3 and 4 of Block 10 of the 1923 resubdivision of "Beall's Subdivision of Part of Rockville" were purchased by John and Georgia Barcus from Margaret J. Beall's heirs in 1924. The deed which transferred the 27,000 square feet indicated improvements, but this is not borne out by tax records of the time. 1/

Continued on Attachment 8.1

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M126/16/19

Montgomery County Land and Tax Records; Interviews with Rosalie M. Campbell, Ella Smith, and Louise Barcus Hall, 1988.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property #114, 13,000 sq. ft.; #116, 13,000 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_ Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

#114 - Part of Lot #4; and #116 - Part of Lot #3, both on block 10, section 2, resubdivision of part of Beall's Subdivision of part of Rockville.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Eileen McGuckian / Judy Christensen</u>		
organization	<u>Peerless Rockville</u>	date	<u>May, 1988</u>
street & number	<u>P.O. Box 4262</u>	telephone	<u>762-0096</u>
city or town	<u>Rockville,</u>	state	<u>Maryland</u>

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438



Architectural Description (continued):  
114 & 116 North Street

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The one-bay east facade has one window on each of the first and second stories.

The one-bay west facade has one window in each of the first and second stories.

The three-bay south (rear) facade has one window in the east bay and one in the west bay, second story. There is one window in the west bay, first story. A one-story shed-roofed enclosed porch occupies the center and east bays. It has a smaller window in the center bay and a horizontal window in the east bay.

Outbuildings

A one-bay front-gabled frame garage faces north at the southwest corner of the house, accessed by a concrete driveway from North street west of the house. The garage is clad with asbestos wood-grained shingle siding and has a sliding battened door. The attic gable has a quarter-round fanlight.

#116 North Street:

This one-story vernacular house in good condition is typical of moderate to low cost houses built for small families, retirement homes, and rental units in the first half of the twentieth century. It has been modified by a side addition, replacement composition shingles and new chimney.

The house has a chain link fence around the well-maintained front yard. The grade declines slightly from the street, accessed by a central concrete walkway. The yard is landscaped with specimen shrubs and flower beds with spirea and azaleas softening the foundation line. Near the east facade, an asphalt driveway from North Street leads to a parking area and garage in the rear yard.

This 1 story 3-bay by 2-bay 1930s rectangular vernacular frame cottage has a front-gabled portico and an addition on the east side. The side-gabled roof is composition shingled and has one central concrete interior chimney, undoubtedly a replacement. The exterior is clad with a wide synthetic siding. The foundation is concrete block. Windows are 2/2 with wood louvered shutters.

The three-bay north (front) has a window in the east and west bays and a central four-light wood panel exterior door. A one-story front-gabled portico has heavy knee brackets at the juncture with the house and two turned posts, perhaps a later addition, supporting the front. Iron pipe forms a railing on the sides. There is a concrete deck with one step up.

Architectural Description (continued):  
114 & 116 North Street

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The two-bay east facade has a small four-light sash in the gable and a shed-roofed addition on the first story. The addition has one horizontal 2/2 window on the north facade, a four horizontal light wood exterior door in the north bay, and a horizontal 2/2 window in the south bay on the east facade.

The three-bay south (rear) facade has been updated with the addition of a modern deck and a walk-out basement.

The two-bay west facade has a four-light sash in the gable and two vertical 2/2 windows on the first story.

Outbuildings

There is one large steel building in the rear yard.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SURVEY# M:26/16/19  
SECTION 8 PAGE 1

Statement of Significance/ History (continued):  
114 & 116 North Street  
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According to his daughter, John Barcus was a farmer and worked hard. He owned an automobile as early as 1923. He built the two rooms up and two rooms down house, which then was unnumbered but is now known as #114, not long after purchasing the lots. 2/

The Barcus family lived there for about three years, then moved after Georgia Barcus died.

In 1931, John Barcus sold Lot#4 (the easternmost lot with the house) to Harry P. English, a white man who operated a general store on Montgomery Avenue. 3/ Through the Depression, Barcus managed to retain ownership of the western lot, later constructing #116 there as a rental property; #116 was sold to Harry P. English in 1951. 4/

English died in the early 1950s, after which his estate sold the two lots. Viola Hebron and Catherine Jackson purchased #114 and the second dwelling, "being further described as #116 First Lane, and occupied by [Joseph and Carrie Cooper] as tenants", was bought for \$2250 by the Coopers. 5/ The present owners of #116 purchased it in 1984 from Joseph Cooper's estate.

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Records 358/316 and Tax Records 1925.
2. Interview with Louise Barcus Hall, 1988; Tax Records of 1928 show a value of \$400 for the two lots and \$900 for the dwelling house, although two years later the amounts had decreased to \$225 and \$800.
3. Land Records, op. cit. 518/103.
4. Ibid., 1583/163.
5. Ibid., 1968/450 and 1967/54 (both 1954).



Statement of Significance/ History (continued):  
114 & 116 North Street  
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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance      A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

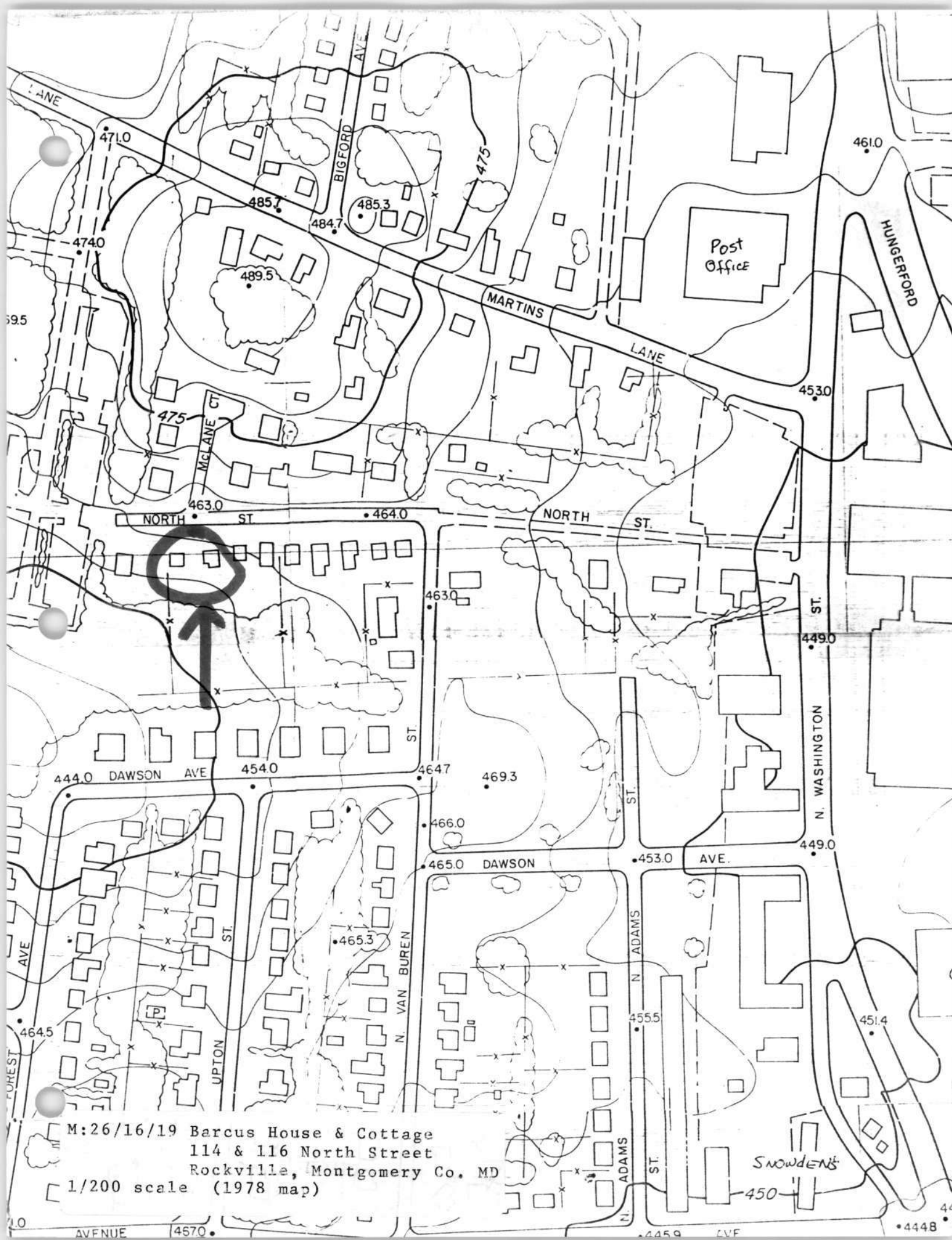
Settlement/Political  
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning  
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Building  
Setting: Urban  
Historic Function(s) or Use(s): Domestic/Single Family/Residence  
Known Design Source: None

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:

1. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, Rockville
2. Chronological Period(s):  
Maturation and Expansion of the County Seat    A.D. 1873-1931
3. Historic Context Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture,  
Community Planning (Black History); Social/Educational/Cultural
4. Resource Type:  
Category : Building  
Setting: Urban  
Historic Function(s) or Use: Domestic/Single Dwelling/Residence  
Known Design Source: None





Barcus House

M: 26 / 16 / 19

114 NORTH ST.

Rockville Md

NORTH (Front) and West Elev.  
J Christensen

5/88





Barcus Cottage

M: 26/16/19

116 North St.

Rockville, Md

North (Front) elevation

J Christensen

5/88